

**ADJOURNED COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN**

June 22, 2009

7:00 P.M.

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU
ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE**

ABSENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH**

Mayor Graham asked that a moment of silence be observed in remembrance of Michael McCarthy who recently passed away.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Fire Chief Discussion

Mayor Graham asked about an update on the hiring process for fire chief.

Mrs. Corriveau said the fire chief exam was held January 10, 2009. By March, two candidates were certified as eligible. She noted that approximately \$785.00 was spent on recruiting. In May, she added, the two eligible candidates withdrew their names and the City is not currently in a position to conduct any interviews.

Mayor Graham asked if possible candidates have to take the City test.

Mrs. Corriveau said they have to sign up and meet the minimum qualifications in order to be considered.

Council Member Burns inquired what constitutes a good list of candidates.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that a good list has several names to choose from.

Mayor Graham asked if a new process will be started and if the City will be advertising for the position.

Mrs. Corriveau said a new test will be offered again in January 2010 and that the process will be similar to how Police Chief Goss was hired.

Mayor Graham questioned if there was any way to break out of the current testing and waiting cycle.

Mrs. Corriveau answered that the City could petition the State Civil Service Board but there is not likely to be any change as the position of fire chief is a tested position.

Mayor Graham asked if any outside help will be utilized in this process.

Mrs. Corriveau said the process could be reviewed to see if the overall timing of the exam in respect with the need to fill the position is flawed.

Mayor Graham inquired about the cost of recruiting.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that it is not a lot, as the lion's share of the previous recruiting program was the brochure.

Council Member Smith asked if an applicant can be an out of state resident and sit for a New York State civil service exam.

Council Member Burns replied that an individual does not have to be a resident to take the test but would have to be at the time of hiring for the position being tested.

Mayor Graham noted that this is an incomprehensible system and appreciates Mrs. Corriveau outlining it for Council.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

WHEREAS the City owns property known as the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds located in the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, State of New York (the "Fairgrounds"), and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown deems it to be in the best interests of the City and its citizens to Lease a portion of the Fairgrounds property for the purposes of encouraging the development and operation of an indoor family sports facility for public recreation and use, and

WHEREAS the City submitted a Home Rule request to our elected State representatives to allow the City to enter into a Lease Agreement for said lands with the Watertown Family YMCA, Inc., and

WHEREAS that request has been considered and approved by the NYS Senate and Assembly, delivered to the Governor for signature and became law on June 9, 2009, and

WHEREAS the State Legislature has now empowered the City to Lease, for a term not to exceed twenty five (25) years, to Watertown Family YMCA, a portion of its City Fairgrounds for the operation of a public indoor sports facility consisting of indoor athletic fields,

exercise/weight-training areas, concession facilities and related facilities for a consideration equal to the fair market value of the interest to be transferred, and upon such other terms and conditions as the City Council of the City of Watertown may fix and determine, and

WHEREAS the authorization requires that the City of Watertown dedicate an amount equal to the fair market value of the City's interests for the acquisition of additional parklands and/or for capital improvements to existing park and recreational facilities, and

WHEREAS the City and the Watertown YMCA have negotiated a Lease Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that the Lease Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Family YMCA, Inc. for the lease of lands at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds is hereby approved, a copy of said Lease Agreement is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all funds received under the terms of this lease will be posted to the General Fund A2025 account and will be used solely for the acquisition of additional parklands and/or for capital improvements to existing park and recreational facilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Lease Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR.

**RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH,
SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR. AND CARRIED
WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING
RESOLUTION AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR. TO TAKE
FROM THE TABLE THE RESOLUTION "ACCEPTING BID FOR THE PURCHASE
OF NEW SEDAN, DAVIDSON CHEVROLET".**

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND
CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

Council Member Smith asked how the process can be improved. He noted that the City can utilize a more efficient car and he had spoken with Charlie Caprara. Council Member Smith suggested to Council using a VW Jetta with a diesel engine which would cost approximately \$23,000. He noted that he does not feel the Impala is the car to use. Council Member Smith said

a diesel engine would last longer and the car would pay for itself over time. He did note that this would not really be utilized as a chase car.

Chief Goss addressed Council saying that he is not necessarily opposed to a Jetta diesel but has some concern with meeting the July 1 deadline. He also noted his concern with using a battery operated hybrid as the City is not equipped to repair that type of vehicle. Chief Goss reminded Council that he initially asked for \$25,000 for a car and it makes sense to go with an Impala based on that dollar figure. He added that he is looking for a four-door vehicle and not necessarily a chase car but that that sometimes is necessary.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that changing the bid would take us beyond the fiscal year. She noted that if Council does decide to change the bid, Council would need to make a decision to re-appropriate the fund balance for the next fiscal year.

Council Member Smith reiterated that the City would not be losing the money but rather it would be going from a line item to the fund balance.

Council Member Burns noted that Council Member Smith raised some good questions but questioned what can be done about the deadline.

Robert Cleaver, City Purchasing Agent, addressed Council saying that the item up for bid has to be advertised for a minimum of five days and bids would have to be returned to the City by June 30. He told Council that this would not net a good result in such a time crunch. Mr. Cleaver also noted that diesel vehicles are very loud and two-way radio communication, as commonly used in a police car, would be quite difficult to hear.

Council Member Butler noted that a Jetta seems significantly smaller than an Impala.

Council Member Smith said that actually there is less than an inch difference in interior dimensions between the two cars.

Council Member Burns stated that she respects the position Council Member Smith is coming from but the City needs to forward. She added that the City should take Council Member Smith's comments into consideration for future vehicle purchases.

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING
RESOLUTION AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA, EXCEPT COUNCIL
MEMBER SMITH VOTING NAY.**

Presentation by Rick Tague & Joseph L. Thesier of Bernier, Carr & Associates – Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds Ice Arena Study, 2009

Mr. Tague began the presentation by voicing his appreciation for the work that the Parks and Recreation department has to go through regarding the ice arena facility. He presented a slideshow to Council outlining background on the project, and overviews of various systems in the arena.

Mr. Thesier reviewed the mechanical and electrical/lighting systems noting the deficiencies and suggested improvements.

Mr. Tague pointed out the various locations a second sheet of ice could be placed. The first scenario would require a new entrance and a relocation of the road. He said that another possibility would be to put the second sheet in the current parking lot which would basically erase the skate park. Mr. Tague noted that another idea would be to put the new sheet behind the current arena which would mean that the current system would keep the two sheets frozen in winter and one in summer. The final plan would be to place it on the other side of the pool, creating a courtyard-like effect.

Council Member Butler asked for clarification on connecting the two sheets and the arrival at the proposed price tag.

Mr. Tague said that the second floor would connect the present arena with the second sheet of ice, if the second sheet is placed off the back of the current structure.

Mr. Thesier told Council that the initial study was to look at the existing facility and examine some options for renovations and additions. The arrival at the current number was based on a 'square-foot' price and that this project did not delve into a feasibility study.

Council Member Butler asked if Mr. Tague and Mr. Thesier would recommend hiring someone with more expertise in ice arenas.

Mr. Tague replied that there is a consultant from Buffalo that would analyze the trends related to ice arenas to research what makes sense.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that the City at some point may look to build a second sheet of ice and Bernier, Carr & Associates kept that in mind while looking at changes to the facility.

Mr. Tague told Council that the City would still be further ahead to renovate the current building rather than start from scratch. He noted that some systems in the building will be viable for years to come.

Council Member Smith inquired about the delineation between renovations and maintenance.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that maintenance does not necessarily mean code compliance.

Mr. Thesier said that the code is specific as to what is renovation and that certain things may trigger compliance issues.

Mr. Tague added that the fire protection/detection system should be high on the list of things to fix.

Council Member Butler noted that the building would not get good marks for energy efficiency.

Mr. Thesier stated that it is not anywhere near being as good as a new structure built today.

Council Member Smith asked if the proposal for first floor renovations and additions is the best idea for adding a second sheet of ice.

Mr. Tague said their team looked at the best location for a second sheet of ice, which would be located in the back corner, which is how a second floor was developed. He said that this also has the least impact on the areas surrounding the arena.

Council Member Smith said he would not want to tear down renovations or additions to add a future second sheet to the arena.

Mrs. Corriveau assured Council that there are options to facilitate adding a new sheet of ice but that Council made the decision in December to not fund looking at a second sheet.

Council Member Smith inquired about adding solar panels to the arena roof.

Mr. Tague replied that no work had been done on that front as there was a miscommunication between a former engineer and Mr. Hayes.

Mr. White addressed Council and stated that one solar panel would be able to heat up the water used for the Zamboni. He said that this project would really be more to show that the City is undergoing a 'green project.'

Council Member Smith asked if the report was delayed because of the solar panel discussion.

Mr. Tague said that the issue was not communicated to he or Mr. Thesier. He added that they listened to what the various groups who use the ice had to say and that solar panels are not part of the current scope at this time.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that the draft report came out in March. She said that is the report that was delayed and that she has not spoken to Mr. Hayes about it yet.

Council Member Smith inquired about the weight of the solar panels on the roof and how many can be secured there.

Mr. Tague commented that that topic was beyond the scope of this study. He added that a structural analysis would be needed for that issue as well as the addition of any hanging sound equipment inside the arena.

Arsenal/Coffeen Street Sewer Lines

Mayor Graham told Council he spoke with Superintendent Bartlett regarding his decision to not allow additional capacity. He noted that it is the City's desire to get the issue settled in some fashion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR. AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS TO APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 73 TO THE MANAGEMENT AND MANAGEMENT CONFIDENTIAL PAY PLAN TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF AT \$87,000 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR.

RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR. AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA, EXCEPT COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH, PRESENT NOT VOTING

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Amanda C. Lewis
Deputy City Clerk

